

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

Amend regulatory language to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area by incorporating the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, and include the Volcano Bay, East and West Pavlof Bay Sections in the and *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* as follows:

Move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the existing South Central District. Include and manage specified Sections of the South Central District with the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections

(d) Southwestern District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending 115° from Cape Pankof Light (54° 39.60' N. lat., 163° 03.70' W. long.) and west of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. LAT., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.) TO THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT (LONGITUDE OF MCGINTY POINT: 160° 59.00' W. LONG.),] including Inner Iliasik, Outer Iliasik, [GOLOI, DOLGOI, POPERECHOI,] and Deer Islands, waters of Ikatan Bay, and waters of Isanotski Strait south of a line from the False Pass cannery dock (54° 51.35' N. lat., 163° 24.38' W. long.) to Nichols Point (54° 51.43' N. lat., 163° 23.23' W. long.);

[(7) VOLCANO BAY SECTION: WATERS BETWEEN MOSS CAPE AND ARCH POINT, INCLUDING GOLOI, DOLGOI, AND POPERECHNOI ISLANDS;]

(e) South Central District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.)] and west of a line extending south from McGinty Point (55° 27.37' N. lat., 160° 59.00' W. long.), including Ukolnoi and Wosnesenski Islands;

(5) Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** Salmon Management Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** fishery conducted in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.** Except as specified in 5 AAC

09.330 (f) (3), before July 11, only set gillnet gear may be used in these sections. For the purpose of the management plan in this section, local runs include only those salmon in the waters

AAC 09.200(f);

(1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described in 5

(2) in the Stepovak Flats Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f).

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** until the department projects that a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(3) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1, all sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

(4) The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 7.6 percent of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area at any time before July 25.

(5) The allocation method described in (a) - (g) of this section is in effect through July 25. The commissioner may not open the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** area for local stocks.

(i) During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, the department may disallow or severely restrict commercial salmon fishing in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** during this period, and from June 26 through June 30 in the Northwest Stepovak Section.

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, [THE EAST PAVLOF BAY AND THE WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT,] and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

[(f) NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING WILL CLOSE IN THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT AT 55° 12.30' N. LAT., 161° 54.30' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON BELKOFSKI PENINSULA AT 55° 09.50' N. LAT., 161° 57.80' W. LONG. AND IN THE PORTION OF THE WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTION SOUTH OF BLACK POINT (55° 24.48' N. LAT.), IF THE HARVEST OF SOCKEYE SALMON FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT, THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, AND THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AND BOLD CAPE, REACHES 191,000 SOCKEYE SALMON BASED ON FISH TICKET INFORMATION.]

[(g) NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IS CLOSED TO PURSE SEINE GEAR IN THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AT 55° 01.88' N. LAT., 162° 24.80' W. LONG., AND BOLD CAPE AT 55° 01.24' N. LAT., 162° 16.40' W. LONG., AND THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prior to 2004, The Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District and the South Central District of Area M were not open to commercial fishing in June. The significant presence of Chignik sockeye in these areas has resulted in an increase in the interception of Chignik-bound sockeye that did not exist prior to 2004. Chignik stocks are struggling and greater conservation measures are needed to ensure that overharvest of Chignik stocks does not happen.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. We had discussions with various Chignik Region tribal members and long-time Chignik fishermen, who pointed out how these areas line up geographically with the migration of Chignik sockeye stocks and how it makes sense these areas be combined into the SEDM management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition

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